

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-25 are pending in the case. Claims 20-25 were previously withdrawn with traverse in response to a restriction requirement.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner has requested that Applicants elect a species of an unsaturated oxygenated fluorocarbon in claim 4. Of the foregoing species within claim 4, Applicants elect "diacyl fluoride" with traverse.

In making the request for a specific species such as, for example, electing a particular species of unsaturated oxygenated fluorocarbons, the Examiner has failed to establish that a serious burden would exist and has not provided, for example, a separate classification, separate status in the art, and/or different field of search that would be required for the separate inventions. Further, the members of the species groups are members of a Markush group. MPEP §803.02 states that "[I]f the members of the Markush group are sufficiently few in number or so closely related that a search and examination of the entire claim can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine all of the members of the Markush group in the claim on the merits, even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions." For example, there are eleven species of unsaturated oxygenated fluorocarbons contained within claim 4. Further, some, if not all, of these members are so closely related, e.g., epoxides and diepoxides; ketones and diketones; acyl fluorides and diacyl fluorides, such that a search for any one species would encompass a search for the other species within claim 4. Reconsideration with respect to an election of a particular species is respectfully requested. If the Examiner maintains the election of species requirement, Applicants further request that the Examiner, at the minimum, combine the species "diacyl fluoride" with "acyl fluorides" because these particular species are closely related.

Should the Examiner require any further information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosaleen Morris-Oskanian
Registration No. 47,321
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-8169